

Message Text

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62

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-12 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

NEA-10 EB-11 COA-02 RSR-01 /128 W
----- 112581

P R 192105 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3624

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

USMISSION USUN

USMISSION NATO

USOECD PARIS 448

USEC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

COMICEDEFOR

NISRA

CINCLANT

UNCLAS REYKJAVIK 0549

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PBOR, IC, UK

SUBJECT: FISHERIES DISPUTE ESCALATES

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. PRIME MINISTER SAID ON TV MAY 19 THAT
GOI WOULD TAKE " NECESSARY ACTION" AND WOULD PROBABLY SEEK ASSIS-
TANCE OF UN AND NATO IN RESPONSE TO HMG DECISION TO SEND NAVAL
UNITS INSIDE 50 MILE LIMIT. END SUMMARY.

2. HMG DECISION ANNOUNCED MAY 19 TO AUTHORIZE 3 ROYAL NAVAY
FRIGATES TO ENTER ICELAND' S 50 MILE FISHERIES LIMIT HAS CAUSED
SURPRISE AND CONSTERNATION. PRIME MINISTER JOHANNESSON,
INTERVIEWED ON TV AT 8 PM LOCAL TIME, SAID THAT GOI WOULD TAKE
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" NECESSARY ACTION" WITHIN ITS LIMITED MEANS BUT WOULD NOT ENGAGE BRITISH WARSHIPS. HE SAID THAT A CABINET MEETING HAD NOT YET BEEN CALLED BUT PROBABLY WOULD BE MAY 20 AND MIGHT WELL RESULT IN DECISION TO SEEK ASSISTANCE OF UN AND NATO. (ACCORL DING TO NEWS BROADCAST HMG HAS ALREADY INFORMED NAC OF ITS DECISION).

3. PRIMIN SUMMONED BRITISH AMBASSADOR AT 6:30 PM TO DELIVER PROTEST. PARALLEDL PROTEST WAS DELIVERED TO HMG BY ICELANDIC AMBASSADOR IN LONDON.

4. ACCORDING TO LATEST REPORTS RECEIVED FROM ICELANDIC COAST GUARD NO RPT NO BRITISH WARSHIPS OR TRAWLERS YET SIGHTED WITHIN 50 MILES. TWO BRITISH AIRCRAFT HAVE BEEN SPOTTED WITHIN 50 MILES OF NORTHEAST ICELAND.
IRVING

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NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

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Disposition Event:
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TAGS: PBOR, IC, UK, PBOR
To: BONN
BRUSSELS
COPENHAGEN
EUR
LONDON
NATO
OSLO

SECSTATE WASHDC

USUN

Type: TE

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